

Amendments to the Abstract

Please amend the Abstract to read.

-- A video encoder {100} is disclosed, the encoder for encoding image frames that are divisible into macroblocks. The video encoder {100} includes means {130} for generating a QP estimate for the macroblocks of an image frame. The video encoder further includes means {120} for selection of a frame level quantization parameter (QP) for the image frame, using one of mean, median, and mode of QP estimates for the macroblocks. A method for encoding video is disclosed for encoding image frames that are divisible into macroblocks. The method generates {225} a quantization parameter (QP) estimate for the macroblocks of an image frame and selects {230} a frame level QP for the image frame, using one of mean, median, and mode of QP estimates for the macroblocks.

[fig. 2 selected]